



Vacaville wins MEL title with 44-15 win over the Wildcats

By Matt Miller | Vacaville Reporter | November 2, 2012

Kenyon Clay wasn't too happy about missing out on a safety.

His Vacaville High School teammates were upset about being disrespected on defense.

Will C. Wood bore the brunt of the Bulldogs' wrath on Friday night, and the Wildcats weren't too thrilled after a 44-15 loss in the Black and Blue Bowl at Tom Zunino Stadium.

The Bulldogs allowed just 109 yards of offense in the first half, built a 30-3 advantage after three quarters and cruised to their 21st consecutive Monticello Empire League victory and 15th straight win over the Wildcats.

"The kids played really well. We got control early, and never really let them in it," Vacaville head coach Mike Papadopoulos said. "The defense did a wonderful job. They were very well prepared, and it showed."

Vacaville finished the MEL season with a 5-0 mark, becoming the first squad in the history of the league to finish alone in first place four years in a row.

The Bulldogs also improved to 7-3 overall, and will learn their Sac-Joaquin Section playoff fate when pairings are released tonight.

Wood fell to 3-2 in MEL games and 5-5 overall. The Wildcats still have an outside shot at a playoff berth, and will await word tonight as well.

But the Bulldogs ruled Friday night's game. Wood's Desmond McIver intercepted two passes, and Travis Herbert and Kyle Canerday recovered fumbles, or else the score could have been worse.

McIver's first pick prevented a possible Vacaville touchdown, but gave Wood the ball on its own 5-yard line. Clay shot through from his defensive end spot on the next play and appeared to drag a Wood runner down in the end zone for a safety, but the ball was spotted on the 1.

"It should have been a safety," Clay said. "It's OK, but we had to prove everybody wrong. They were saying our defense wasn't any good. We wanted to show them we could play. Now we have to keep improving for playoffs."

Vacaville got the safety anyway three plays later when Wood was called for holding in the end zone for an automatic two points.

Jacob Te'o added a 15-yard fumble return for a score as Vacaville's defense had the upper hand on Wood's offense for most of the game. Te'o also recovered a fumble, and Kane Cunningham and Conner Kanellis also picked off passes.

Curtis Goins led Vacaville's offense with 181 rushing yards on 18 carries, including a 28-yard scoring run. David Mewborn had 119 yards and a TD, and Te'o and Kanellis also had scoring runs.

Wood scored when Alex Jimenez drilled a 34-yard field goal, and added two late touchdown passes from Tyler Bailey, of 5 yards to Roddrick Douglas and 60 yards to Aaron Herbert.

Vacaville capped the scoring when Mykal Walker grabbed Wood's onside kick try after the second TD and rambled 44 yards untouched with 15 seconds left.

Wood suffered a blow when leading tackler Josh Winters suffered a knee sprain early in the game. He came back in and still made several tackles despite limping.

"That really hurt us defensively," Wood head coach Carlos Meraz said. "That was a big piece for us to lose."